



***Breaking The Silence: Silence  
Was Broken at the Manger***  
Date: 12/18/2016

### Pray Together

**Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

### Read Together

The anticipation had been building. God's people were soon to experience the revelation of His divine plan.

The covenant-keeping God had been actively revealing His will to His people and preparing them for His incarnation. The Angel Gabriel had revealed to Zechariah that his son would "make ready for the Lord a people prepared." Zechariah had joined this ministry of preparation by proclaiming the imminent arrival of "a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David." Gabriel had further revealed to Mary that she would give birth to Jesus, "the Son of the Most High" who would provide deliverance on the throne of His father David.

And now, God's promises were fulfilled. The fullness of time had come. The Word became flesh. The Son of God was born of woman, in the likeness of men, that He may redeem those who were under the law.

### Discuss Together

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- In very straightforward terms, Luke narrates the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7). He highlights the historical context in which the birth occurs, the 90-mile journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, and the humble birth of our Savior. As you read through these familiar verses, what fresh insights are you learning? What spiritual application is the Holy Spirit impressing upon you?
- Jesus' birth is followed immediately by a proclamation to an everyday group: shepherds out in a field. Commentator Darrell Bock suggests, "The shepherds do not represent the 'downtrodden and despised' of society (as some suggest), instead they represent the lowly and humble who respond to God's message (Luke 4:16-18)." Jesus often values the meek and lowly and humble ones (e.g., Matthew 5:2-12). Why are these characteristics so important in God's economy?



- In Luke 2:10 heaven responds to the birth of the Messiah. The angels proclaim, “I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” To this point in Luke’s story, the context has been on the people of Israel and how the Messiah will fulfill the covenant blessings given in the Old Testament. Describe how the “good news of great joy” will be a blessing to “all the people” of Israel. How will this “good news of great joy” be a blessing to “all the families of the earth”?
- In Luke 2:11, the angels refer to Jesus as “Christ the Lord” (some translations “Messiah, Lord”). For Luke, the title “Lord” speaks directly to his understanding of who Jesus is. Take a look at two other instances where Luke describes Jesus as “Lord”: Luke 20:41-44 and Acts 2:33-36. Using these two passages, discuss what Luke means when he calls Jesus “Lord”.
- In Luke 2:13-14 heaven responds to the birth of the Messiah with praise. How should this message of fulfilled promises inspire you to praise God?
- Upon hearing the good news of great joy, the shepherds respond by proclaiming what has been told to them (Luke 1:15-20). How should the Body of Christ “go there” with this message of good news? How do you personally need to “go there” with this message of good news?

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*The rescue of mankind from corruption was the proper part only of Him Who made them in the beginning. He points out also that the Word assumed a human body, expressly in order that He might offer it in sacrifice for other like bodies: “Since then the children are sharers in flesh and blood, He also Himself assumed the same, in order that through death He might bring to nought Him that hath the power of death, that is to say, the Devil, and might rescue those who all their lives were enslaved by the fear of death.” For by the sacrifice of His own body He did two things: He put an end to the law of death which barred our way; and He made a new beginning of life for us, by giving us the hope of resurrection. By man death has gained its power over men; by the Word made Man death has been destroyed and life raised up anew.*

—Athanasius, *On The Incarnation*

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## Pray Together

Pray through Hebrews 2:5-9.

